

Ten Concepts To Consider

1. We each have our own story: we all come from somewhere, are raised with certain music, food, values, rituals.
2. All children can learn: in order to reach all our students this statement does not have conditions attached. There are no IF'S..if they have money, if they have two parents, etc
3. All children are “our children:: not “their children”. This leads to the creation of a true community in the classroom and beyond
4. Our curriculum connects to students’ lives. Using what they know, see, hear, feel and are interested in provides us with a “way in” to reaching them
5. Rituals and structure are always included in creating an effective classroom
6. Group work as well as individual work is part of any teaching plan
7. As teachers, we strive to see the world and our work from many perspectives and including those perspectives in our classroom, media center, hallways
8. Teachers and administrators in our school strive to connect to the community, parents and groups from which our students come
9. From the earliest ages we communicate to students that college is an option for them
10. We each have our own “race story” and are aware of advantages that come with our skin color if we are white. This does not involve feeling ashamed or guilty. It involves accepting and taking responsibility. (We know there are economic advantages or gender advantages but also know we can use this to avoid talking about racial and cultural advantages.)